

Dear Commissioners

I am Professor Emerita of Communications, having taught at the University of California San Diego for seventeen years. I am also the founder of Paper Tiger Television and co-founder of Deep Dish Satellite Network. Both of those entities have required public access channels to give alternative information and cultural presentations for over 30 years. I am also the initiator of the television version of Democracy Now! which is a crucial national program service for news and information that is not available on commercial channels. Democracy Now! is on over one hundred channels and is watched by several million viewers each day, many of them watching on access channels.

The proposed rule making would cripple the entire community of local television throughout the US. Many towns and cities do not have commercial channels and public access is the only possible outlet for local emergencies, local news and local arts.

Please do not allow the cable corporations to utilize our public rights of way without paying out cities and towns the 5% of actual monies, not IN KIND. We all realize how “in kind” can be fudged into meaningless gestures.

Keep the only local production and crisis information channels alive and well throughout the United States.

DeeDee Halleck
Willow New York